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# RE GUIDE

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## FROM FRONT PAGE

The Bajau are an indigenous ethnic group residing in Sabah, concentrated mainly in Kota Belud, Tuaran and Papar. They however have migrated to other parts of the State and are found residing in many areas. They are the second largest ethnic group in Sabah, making up 13.2% of the total population of the state. The largest group is the Kadazandusun people, comprising almost 40 ethnic group under its umbrella.

The Bajaus are sometimes referred to as the Sea Gypsies, although the term has been used to encompass a number of non-related ethnic groups with similar traditional lifestyles. Like the term Kadazandusun, Bajau is a collective term, used to describe several closely related indigenous groups. Sometimes some people refer to themselves

as Bajau Laut. This include the sea-going Bajau community found on the island of Mabul , who live on their boats, although some have built houses on stilts.

Most Bajaus are now 'landlubbers' and have chosen to leave behind their seafaring ways, and live entirely on land, such as those in Kota Belud and Kota Kinabalu area. They farm and rear cattle for a living; herding their cattle with their feisty ponies. This earned them their nickname 'cowboys of the east'. Kota Belud's annual Tamu Besar festival is when the much-touted horsemanship of the Bajau is on display.

So if you are taking your tourists around on Feb 10, don't by pass Kota Belud. The event there promises a lot of interesting activities and fascinating sights